Lililicious~may its fragrance encompass you
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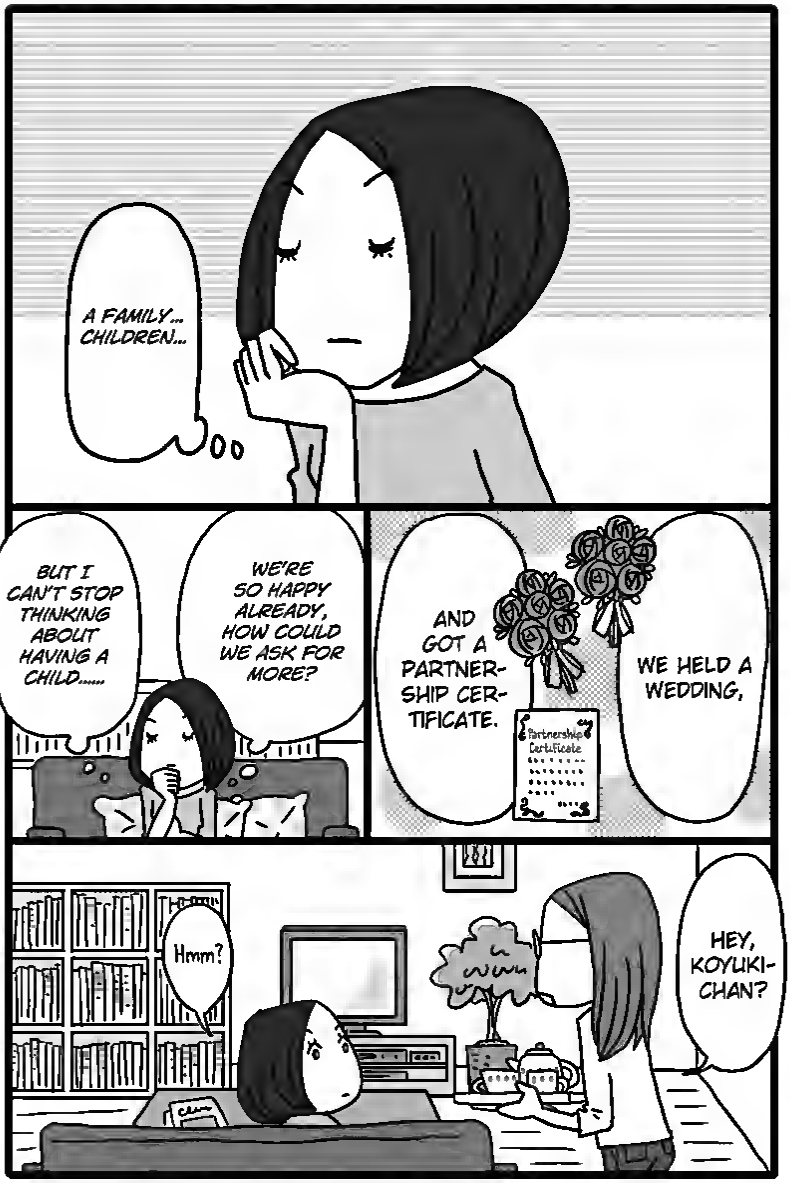
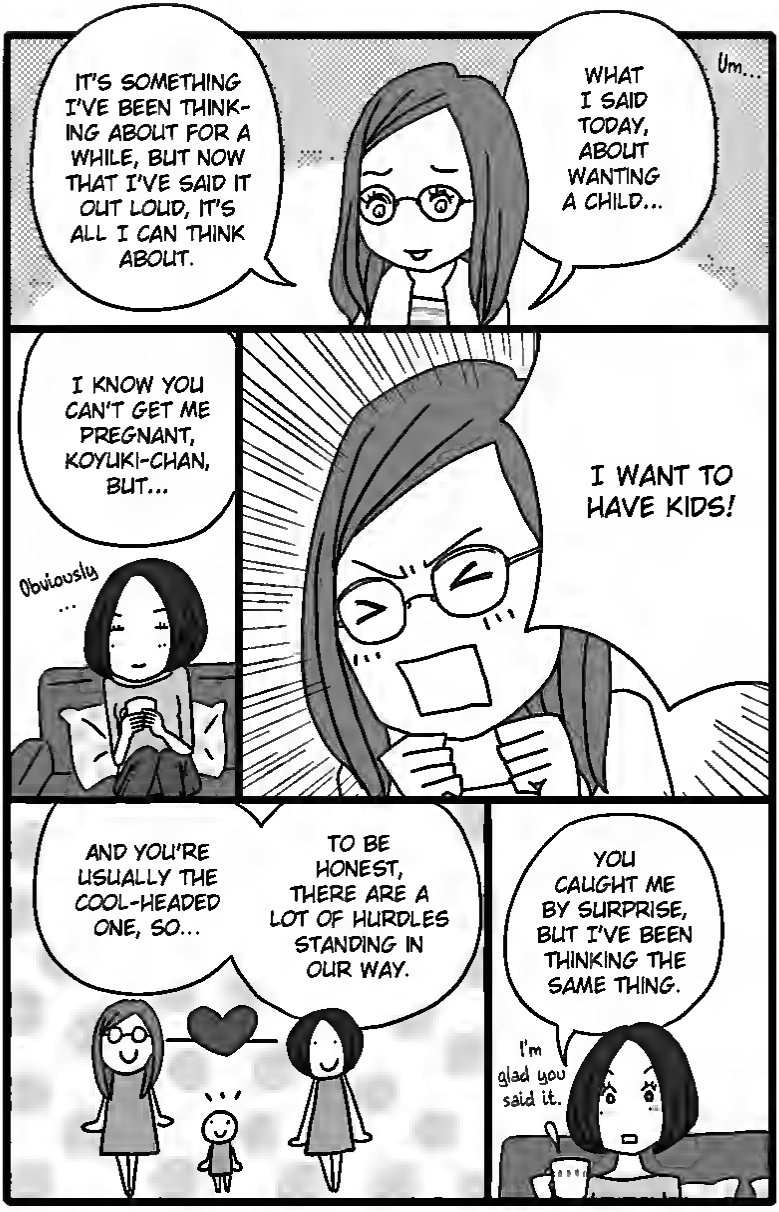
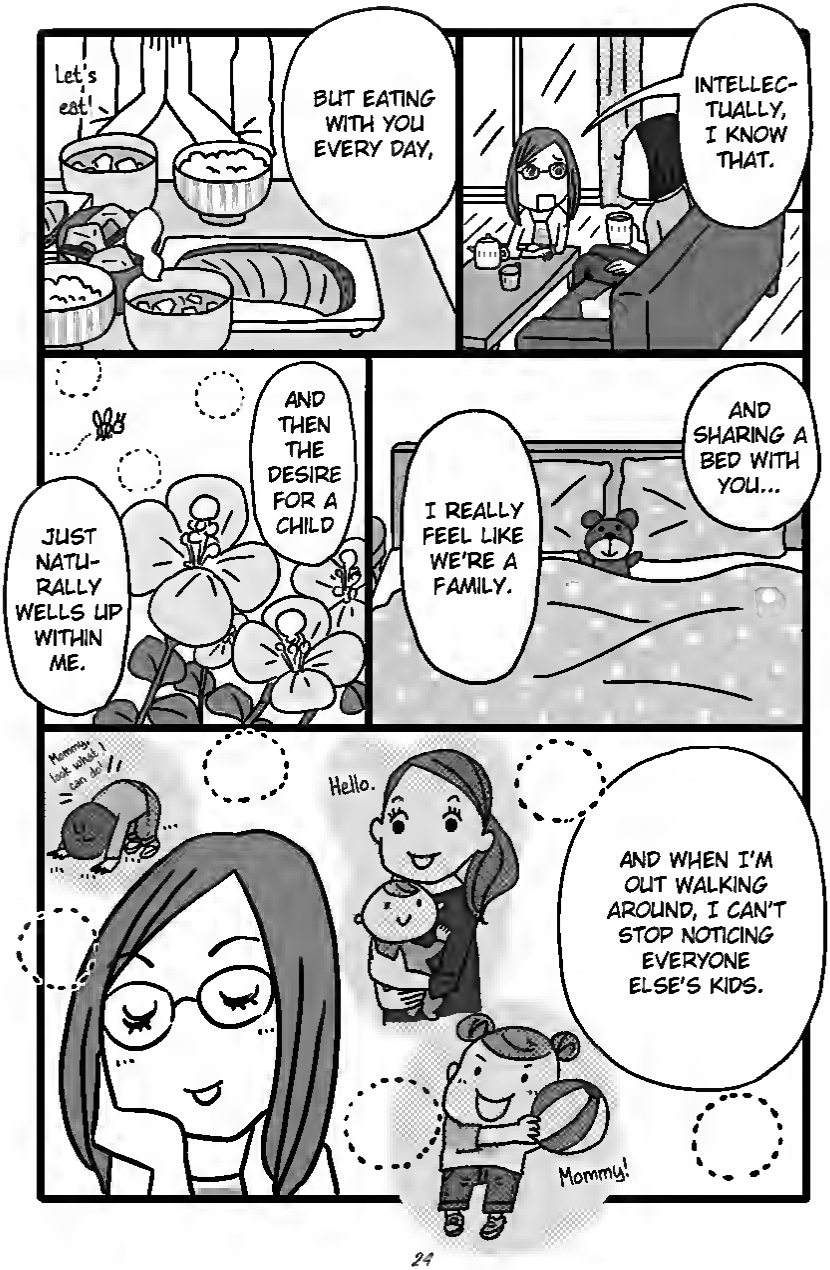
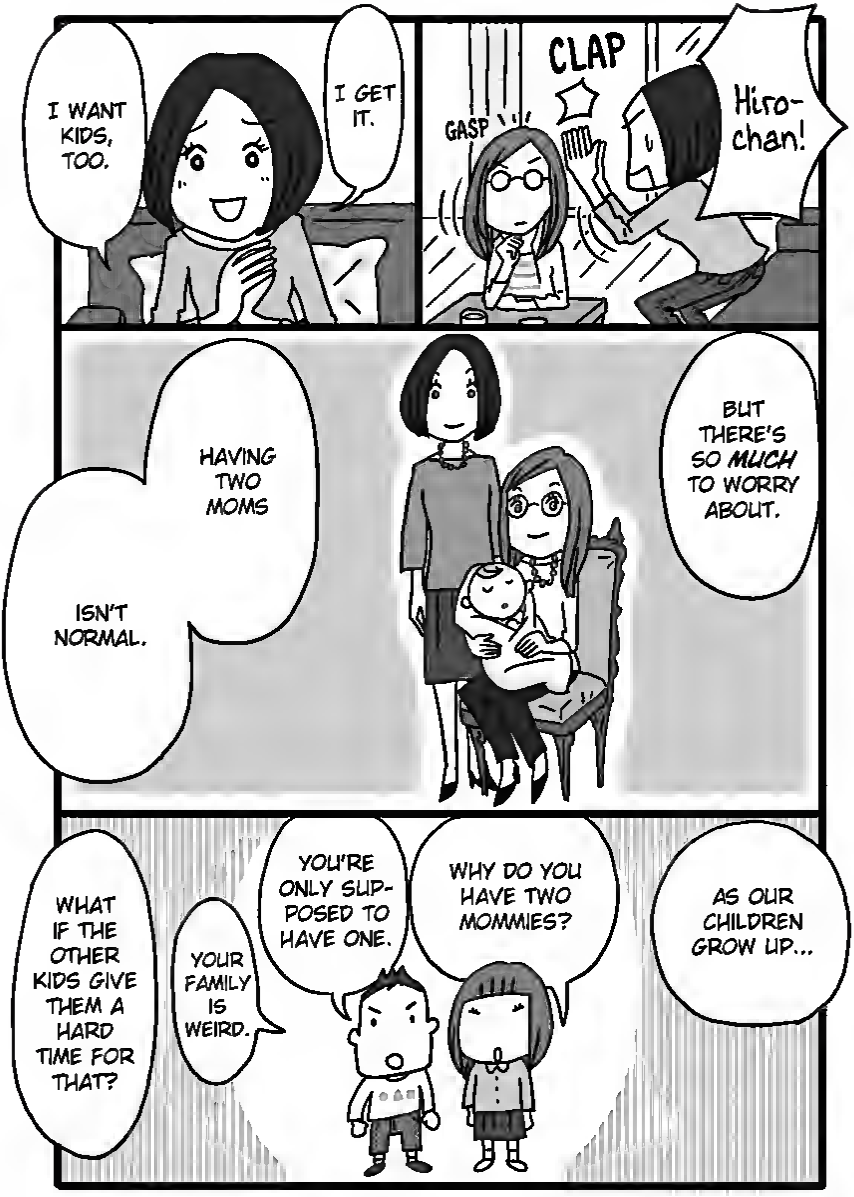
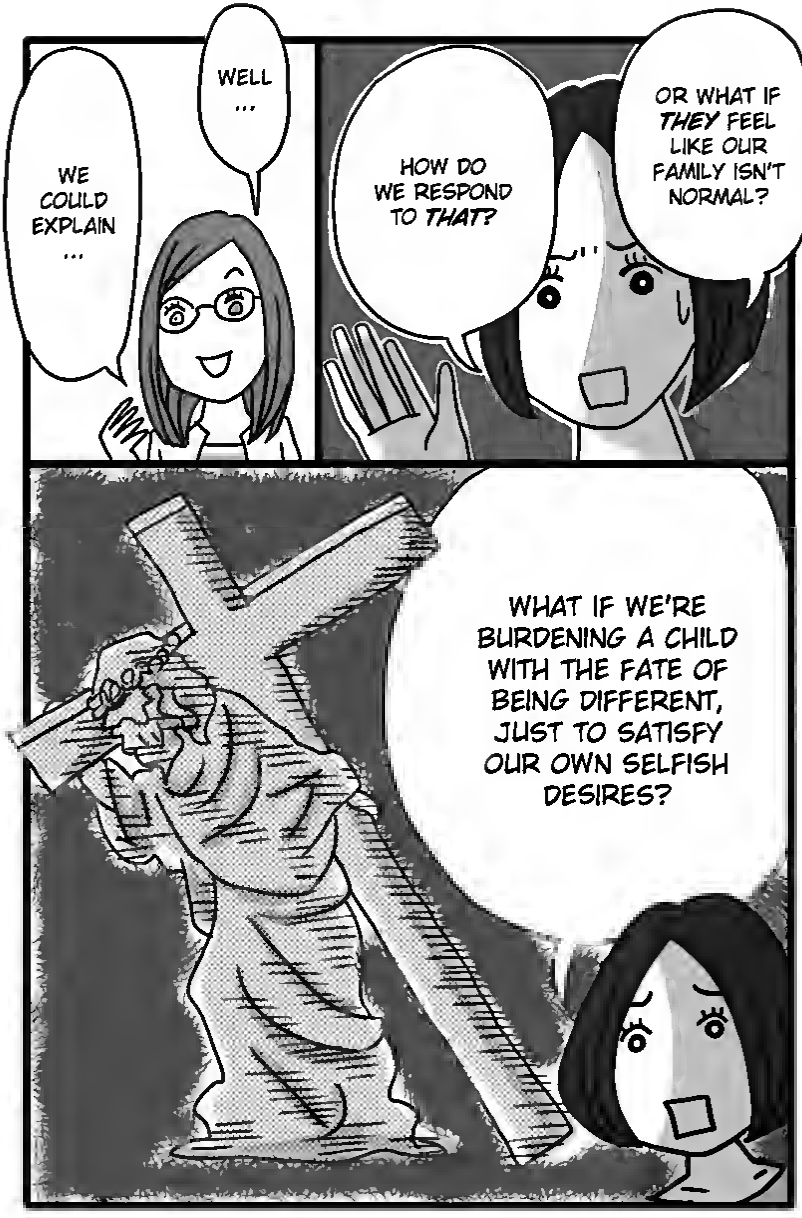
Chapter 3 Worries About Two Moms

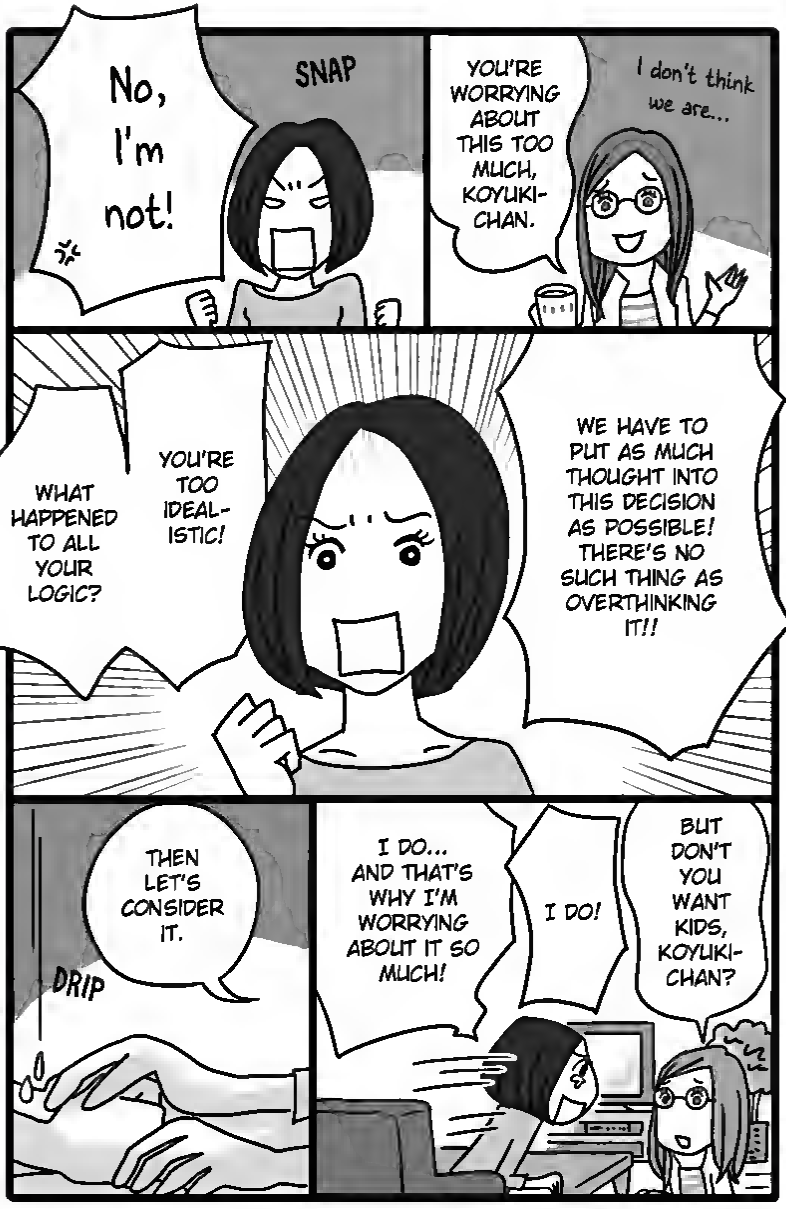

A FAMILY... CHILDREN...
BUT I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HAVING A CHILD.....
WE'RE SO HAPPY ALREADY, HOW COULD WE ASK FOR MORE?
AND GOT A PARTNER-SHIP CER-TIFICATE.
Partnership Certificate
WE HELD A WEDDING,
Hmm?
HEY, KOYUKI-CHAN?

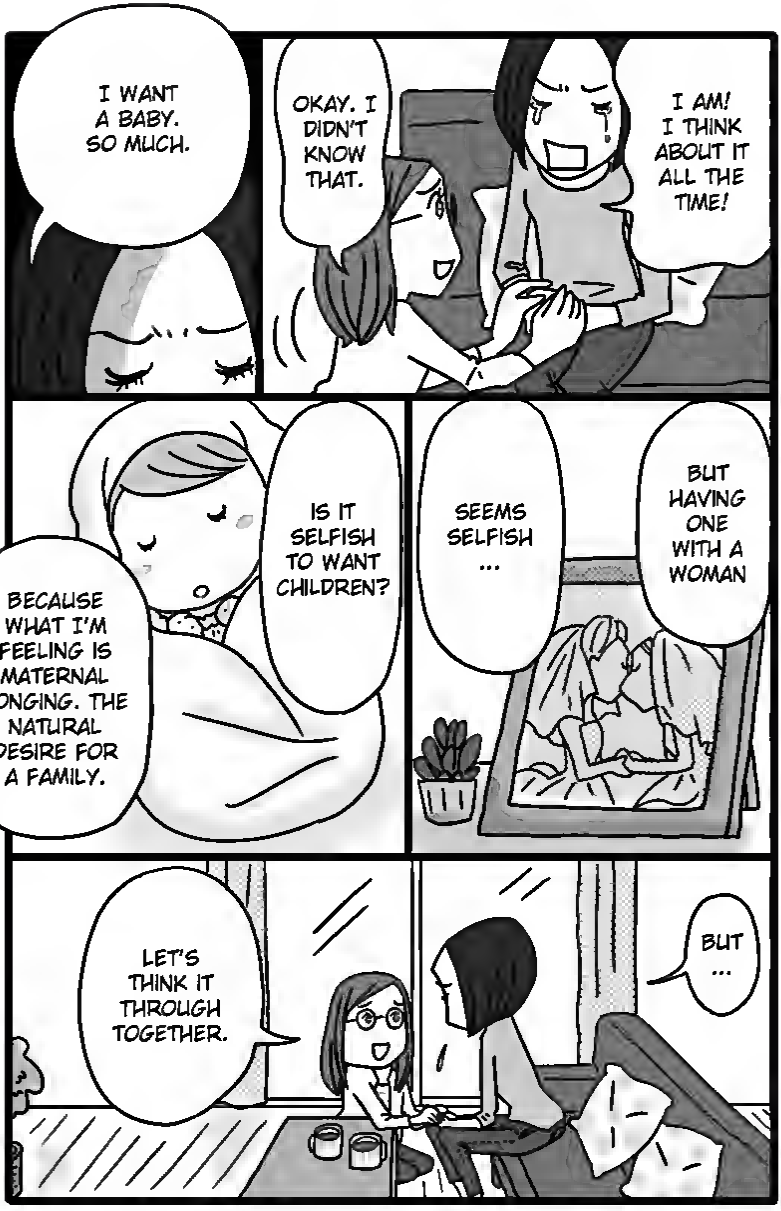

Um...
WHAT I SAID TODAY, ABOUT WANTING A CHILD...
IT'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT FOR A WHILE, BUT NOW THAT I'VE SAID IT OUT LOUD, IT'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT.
I WANT TO HAVE KIDS!
I KNOW YOU CAN'T GET ME PREGNANT, KOYUKI-CHAN, BUT...
Obviously ...
TO BE HONEST, THERE ARE A LOT OF HURDLES STANDING IN OUR WAY.
AND YOU'RE USUALLY THE COOL-HEADED ONE, SO...
YOU CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE, BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING THE SAME THING.
I'm glad you said it.

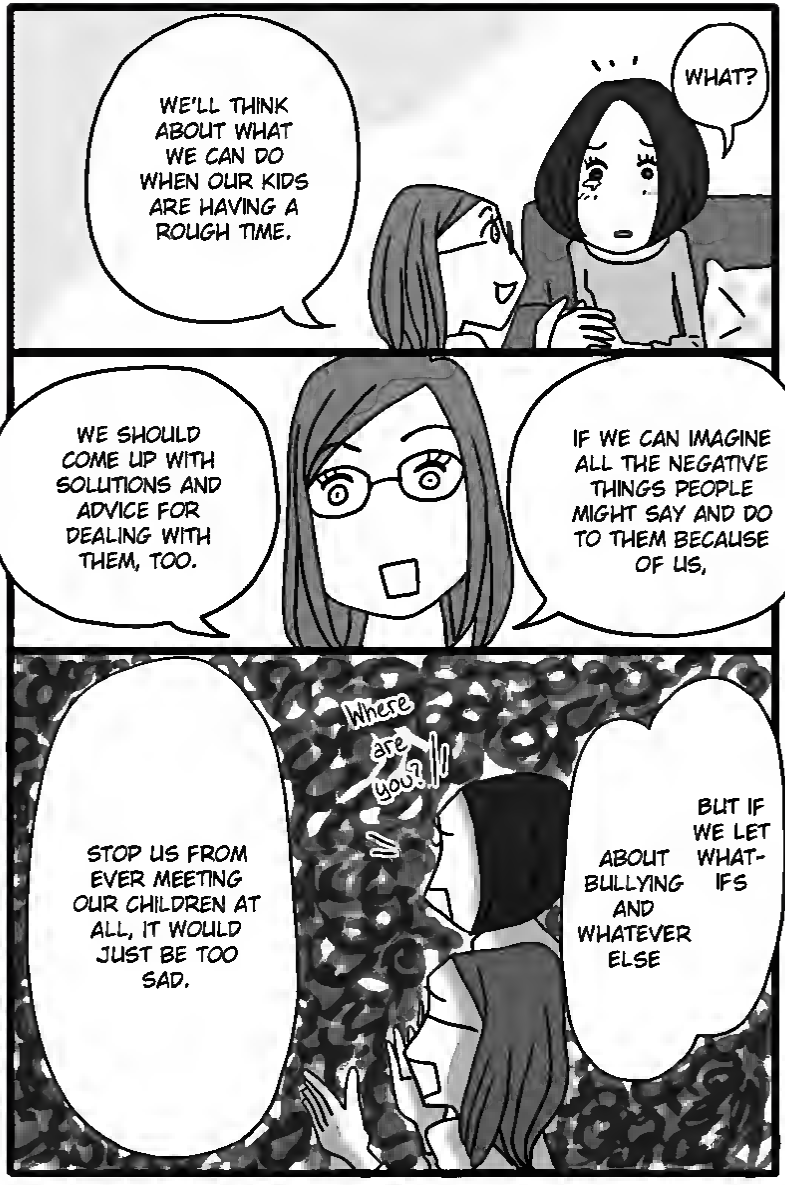

Let's eat!
BUT EATING WITH YOU EVERY DAY,
INTELLECTUALLY, I KNOW THAT.
AND THEN THE DESIRE FOR A CHILD
JUST NATURALLY WELLS UP WITHIN ME.
I REALLY FEEL LIKE WE'RE A FAMILY.
AND SHARING A BED WITH YOU...
Mommy, look what I can do!
Hello.
AND WHEN I'M OUT WALKING AROUND, I CAN'T STOP NOTICING EVERYONE ELSE'S KIDS.
Mommy!

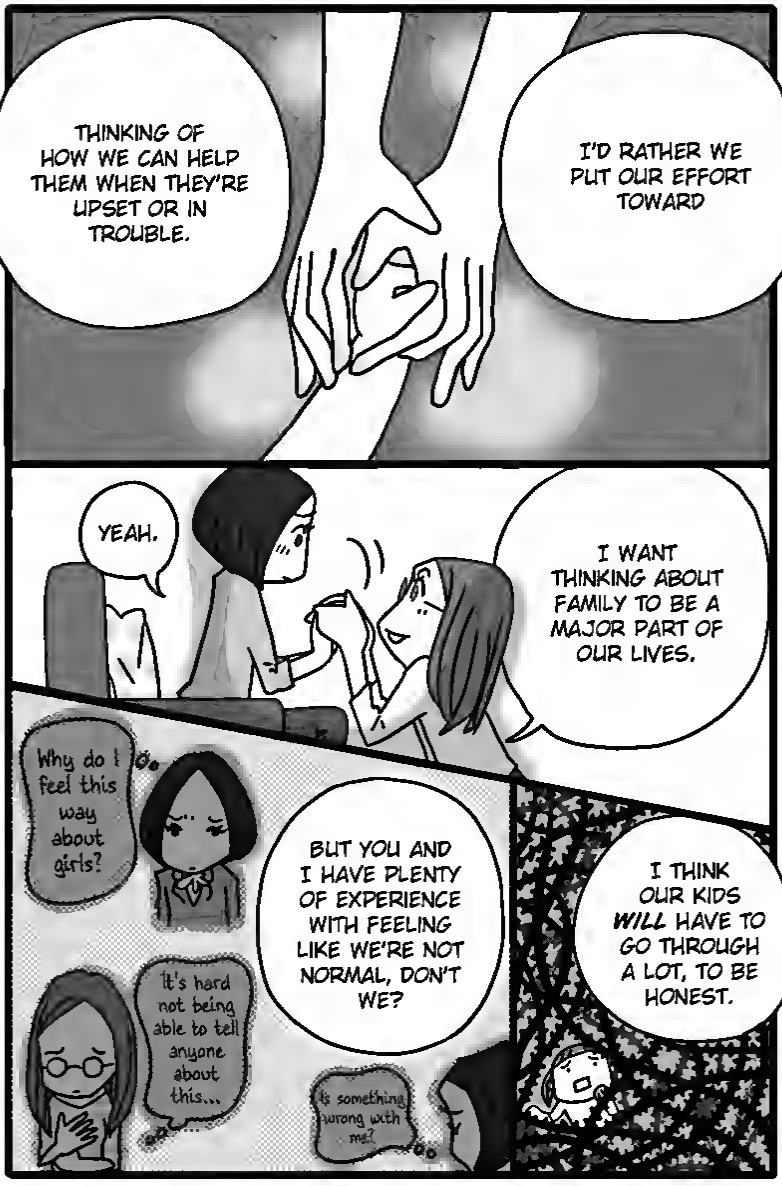

I WANT KIDS, TOO.
I GET IT.
CLAP
GASP
Hiro-chan!
HAVING TWO MOMS ISN'T NORMAL.
BUT THERE'S SO MUCH TO WORRY ABOUT.
WHAT IF THE OTHER KIDS GIVE THEM A HARD TIME FOR THAT?
YOUR FAMILY IS WEIRD.
YOU'RE ONLY SUPPOSED TO HAVE ONE.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TWO MOMMIES?
AS OUR CHILDREN GROW UP...

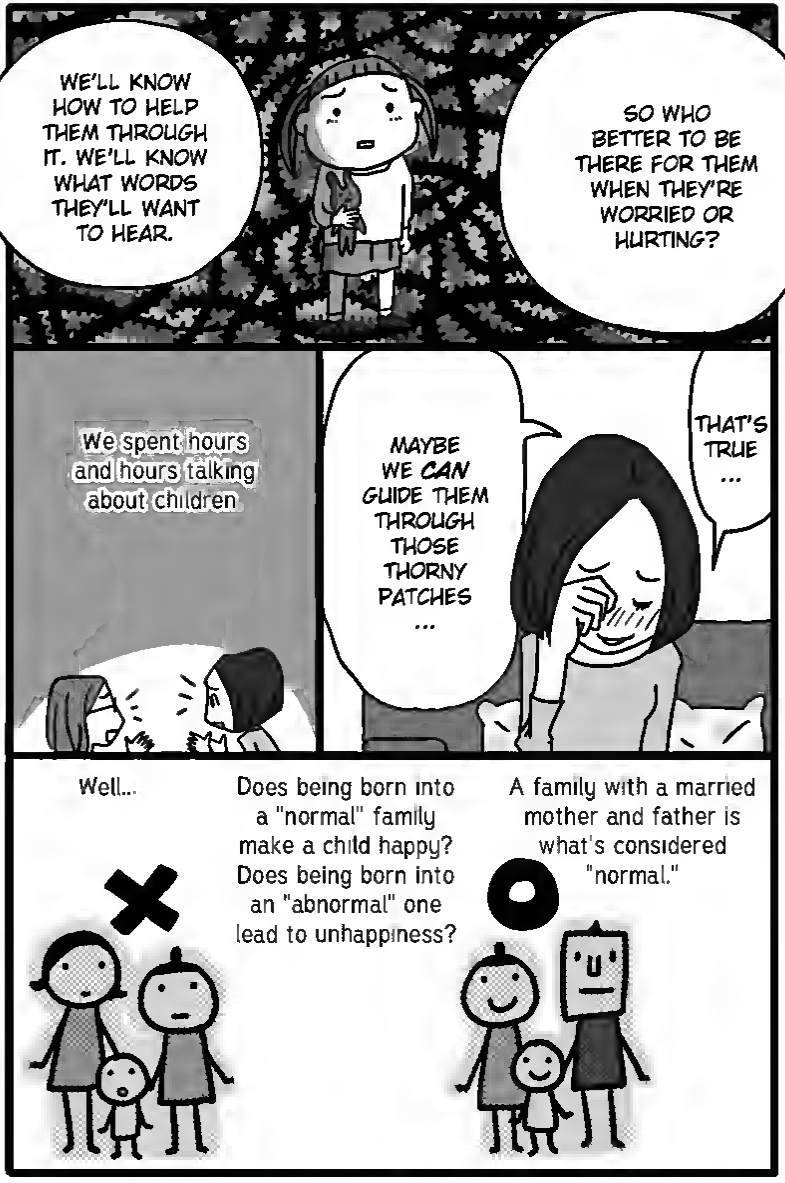

WELL ...
WE COULD EXPLAIN ...
HOW DO WE RESPOND TO *THAT*?
OR WHAT IF *THEY* FEEL LIKE OUR FAMILY ISN'T NORMAL?
WHAT IF WE'RE BURDENING A CHILD WITH THE FATE OF BEING DIFFERENT, JUST TO SATISFY OUR OWN SELFISH DESIRES?

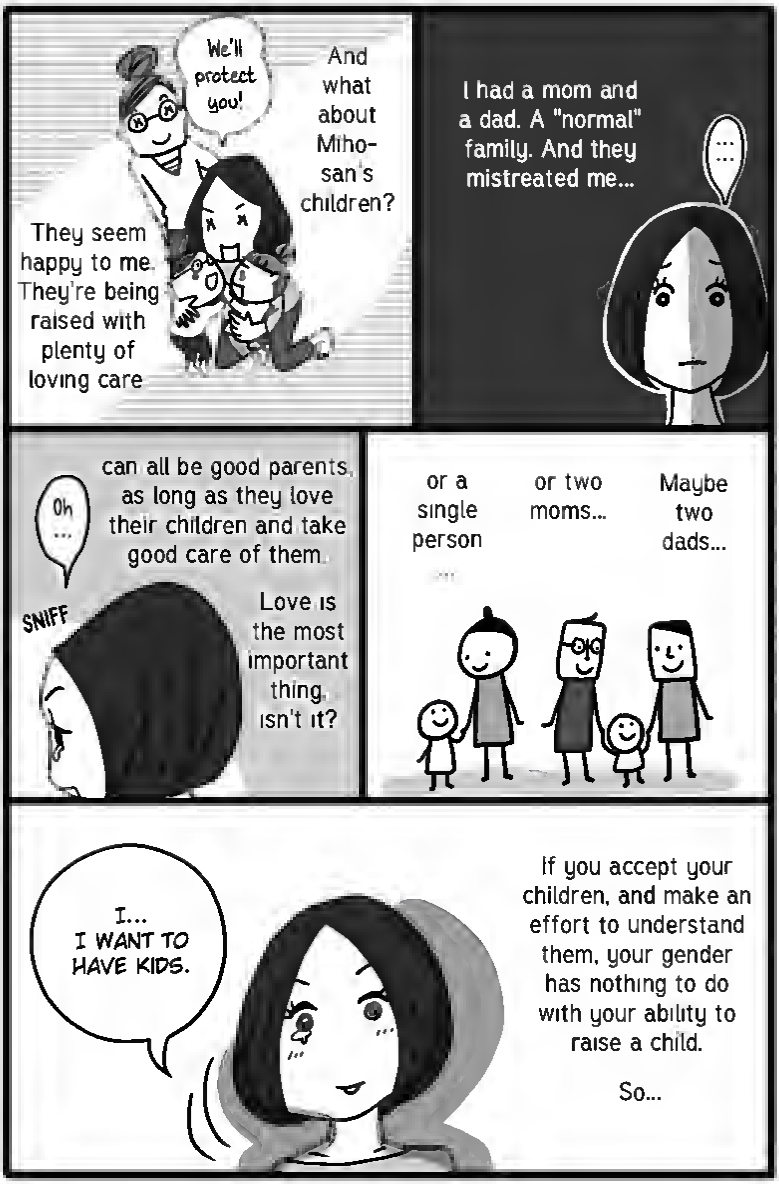

No, I'm not!
SNAP
YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT THIS TOO MUCH, KOYUKI-CHAN.
I don't think we are...
WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL YOUR LOGIC?
YOU'RE TOO IDEAL-ISTIC!
WE HAVE TO PUT AS MUCH THOUGHT INTO THIS DECISION AS POSSIBLE! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS OVERTHINKING IT!!
THEN LET'S CONSIDER IT.
DRIP
I DO... AND THAT'S WHY I'M WORRYING ABOUT IT SO MUCH!
I DO!
BUT DON'T YOU WANT KIDS, KOYUKI-CHAN?

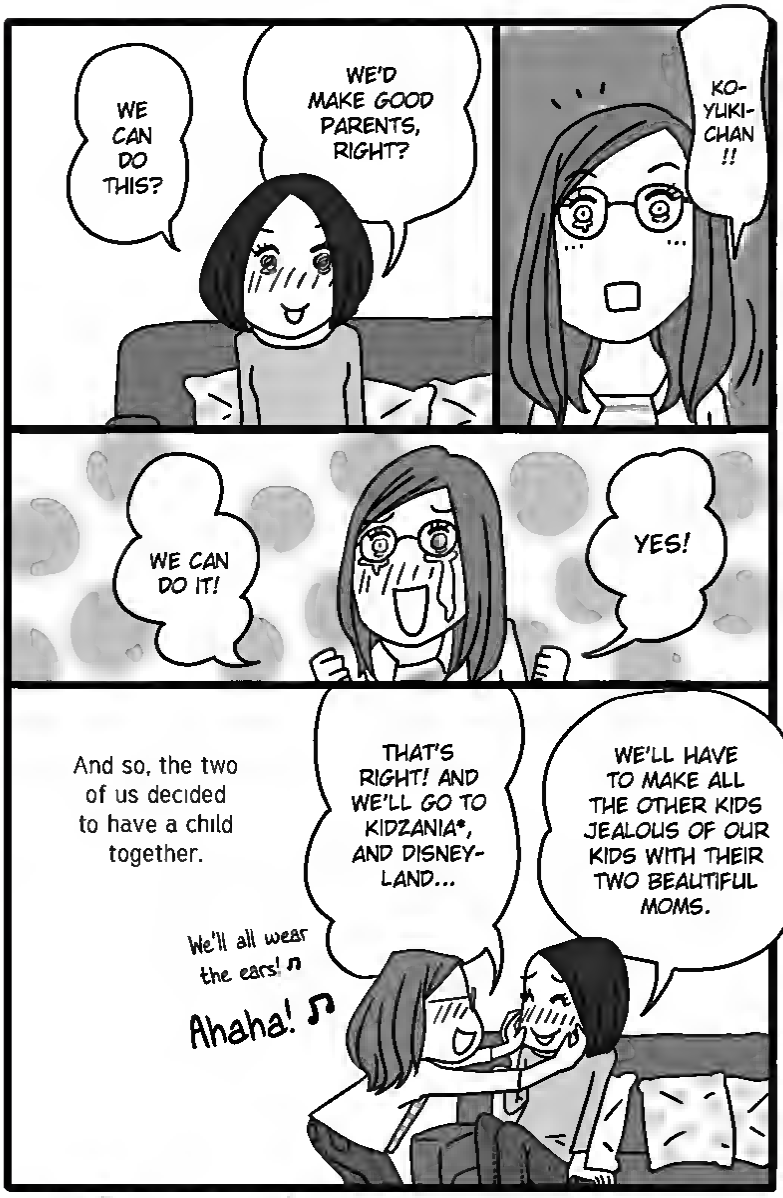

I WANT A BABY. SO MUCH.
OKAY. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
I AM! I THINK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME!
IS IT SELFISH TO WANT CHILDREN?
BECAUSE WHAT I'M FEELING IS MATERNAL LONGING. THE NATURAL DESIRE FOR A FAMILY.
SEEMS SELFISH ...
BUT HAVING ONE WITH A WOMAN
LET'S THINK IT THROUGH TOGETHER.
BUT ...


WE'LL THINK ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DO WHEN OUR KIDS ARE HAVING A ROUGH TIME.
WHAT?
WE SHOULD COME UP WITH SOLUTIONS AND ADVICE FOR DEALING WITH THEM, TOO.
IF WE CAN IMAGINE ALL THE NEGATIVE THINGS PEOPLE MIGHT SAY AND DO TO THEM BECAUSE OF US,
STOP US FROM EVER MEETING OUR CHILDREN AT ALL, IT WOULD JUST BE TOO SAD.
Where are you?!
ABOUT BULLYING AND WHATEVER ELSE
BUT IF WE LET WHAT-IFS


THINKING OF HOW WE CAN HELP THEM WHEN THEY'RE UPSET OR IN TROUBLE.
I'D RATHER WE PUT OUR EFFORT TOWARD
YEAH.
I WANT THINKING ABOUT FAMILY TO BE A MAJOR PART OF OUR LIVES.
Why do I feel this way about girls?
BUT YOU AND I HAVE PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE WITH FEELING LIKE WE'RE NOT NORMAL, DON'T WE?
I THINK OUR KIDS *WILL* HAVE TO GO THROUGH A LOT, TO BE HONEST.
It's hard not being able to tell anyone about this...
Is something wrong with me?


WE'LL KNOW HOW TO HELP THEM THROUGH IT. WE'LL KNOW WHAT WORDS THEY'LL WANT TO HEAR.
SO WHO BETTER TO BE THERE FOR THEM WHEN THEY'RE WORRIED OR HURTING?
We spent hours and hours talking about children
MAYBE WE CAN GUIDE THEM THROUGH THOSE THORNY PATCHES ...
THAT'S TRUE ...
Well...
Does being born into a "normal" family make a child happy? Does being born into an "abnormal" one lead to unhappiness?
A family with a married mother and father is what's considered "normal."


We'll protect you!
And what about Miho-san's children?
They seem happy to me. They're being raised with plenty of loving care
I had a mom and a dad. A "normal" family. And they mistreated me...
...
Oh ...
SNIFF
can all be good parents, as long as they love their children and take good care of them.
Love is the most important thing, isn't it?
or a single person
or two moms...
Maybe two dads...
I... I WANT TO HAVE KIDS.
If you accept your children, and make an effort to understand them, your gender has nothing to do with your ability to raise a child.
So...


WE CAN DO THIS?
WE'D MAKE GOOD PARENTS, RIGHT?
KO-YUKI-CHAN !!
WE CAN DO IT!
YES!
And so, the two of us decided to have a child together.
THAT'S RIGHT! AND WE'LL GO TO KIDZANIA*, AND DISNEY-LAND...
WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE ALL THE OTHER KIDS JEALOUS OF OUR KIDS WITH THEIR TWO BEAUTIFUL MOMS.
We'll all wear the ears! ♫
Ahaha! ♫

*An educational amusement park in Tokyo.

What Is "LGBT"?

The term "LGBT" has been popping up more often lately on TV and in the newspaper. But I think there are still quite a few people who don't really understand what it means. So I'd like to use this column to explain some basic things to you about LGBT people, as well as share a bit about myself (Higashi Koyuki).

LGBT is an acryonym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. It has gradually taken root in Japan as a general term for gender and sexual minorities. The concept is to use the words in a positive sense in order to reclaim terminology for stigmatized minority groups.

L (Lesbian): A woman who falls in love with women.
G (Gay): A man who falls in love with men.
B (Bisexual): A person who can fall in love with someone of any gender, or regardless of gender.
T (Transgender): A person whose gender is different from the one assigned at birth.
Note: They may be medically diagnosed with gender dysphoria (or, previously, gender identity disorder, the Japanese equivalent of which is still in use). Some transgender people choose to physically transition through the use of hormones or surgery, but not all.

In Dentsu Diversity Lab's 2015 LGBT Survey of 69,989 people, 7.6% of respondents self-identified as LGBT. That's one out of every thirteen people, which would mean there could be two or three in a given class of students.

Or, in other terms, it means there are more LGBT people in Japan than there are people with the four most common Japanese family names (Satou, Takahashi, Tanaka, or Suzuki). There must be some out there who think they've never met an LGBT person, but I doubt any Japanese person can say they've never met a Satou, Takahashi, Tanaka, or Suzuki. It's not that we don't exist, it's that we can't always be open about it.

When I tell people I'm a lesbian, they often ask if that means I want to be a man. This is a common misunderstanding. Being a lesbian means that I love women as a woman. And you can't know a transgender person's sexuality unless you ask them. They aren't all straight.

"Sexuality is a spectrum," as some say, and you can't determine a person's sexuality just by looking at them. Everyone is different.

I'm one of the "L"s in LGBT: a lesbian. I first fell in love with a girl—a fellow classmate—in the spring of my second year of high school, and started to worry that I was different from everyone else. I didn't tell anyone about it. Not my parents, or teachers, or even my friends from school. I had a lot of worries about it, including whether I would ever be able to get married and have children.

But now I understand that when it comes to sexuality, there's no one right way. Look at a hundred people, and you'll see a hundred different expressions of human sexuality. LGBT people may be smaller in number, but we're not abnormal or sick. It's really nothing to worry about.

The Japanese government still does not recognize marriages between two people of the same legal sex. But we can still hold weddings, and live together like other married couples do. And raise children, of course!

In a recent survey (NHK's National LGBT Survey, conducted in October 2015), 96 out of the 2,600 LGBT respondents said that they had children. And I've seen plenty of other lesbian couples raising kids, with more on the way.

There are all sorts of people out there, and all sorts of families, too. Instead of being bound by what's considered "normal" by society, you should feel free to just be yourself. I hope that, in learning about LGBT people, you will come to share that sentiment.

Self-Care For Conception!

Even before selecting a sperm donor, we started using tricks like these to increase fertility and improve the likelihood of conception

1) Keep your body warm.
Take baths, drink hot water, wear warm socks, wear a bellyband (*haramaki*), and use warming items such as chemical heating pads or pouches (*hokkairo*), heat therapy patches, and mugwort heat pads. Don't drink cold beverages.

2) Get a moderate amount of aerobic exercise.
Do thirty minutes to an hour of exercise two or three times a week. Walking, using the machines at a gym, etc

3) Lead a well-regulated life, with regular hours and habits.

4) Eat a balanced diet.

5) Don't smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol.

I urge all of you women out there to follow the above advice even if you don't plan to have children. You never know what will happen in life, and it could be that you will change your mind one day. Not to mention that keeping your head cool and feet warm can help to stave off illness, too.

I know that it can be difficult to undertake all of these things if you are busy with work, so if it's too much, start with just one thing, like keeping your body warm. The trick to sticking with it is to start with whatever seems doable, and to figure out what works for you!

Also, keeping a record of your basal body temperature can be a good way to keep track of what's going on with your body. It is very important to get to know your body, and it will help you to plan ahead for your period and to recognize when your emotions are being affected by PMS, for example. Your gynecologist may also find it helpful to have a few months' worth of records of your BBT for reference

Once we began the artificial insemination process, I started taking folic acid supplements, too. I chose a brand that also had iron, and my (mild) anemia went away, too!

I know that all of this must seem like a hassle to do, but it really will be good for your body. And you might as well start doing it sooner rather than later, even if you're not sure you want to have children. It certainly can't hurt to give it a try!

Chapter 3

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